Juvenile Justice in the Age of Technology: An Analysis of Legal and Policy Frameworks

SHORT SYNOPSIS

Submitted in partial fulfilment of the requirement of the degree of

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

by

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DECLARATION BY THE SCHOLAR

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ABSTRACT

The growth of technology has created a difficulty in the shape of digital misbehaviour among juveniles. Minors are committing cybercrime such as cyber bullying, hacking, online fraud and sextortion at an alarming rate. The existing judicial system is failing to effectively address these extraordinary delicacies. The problem stems from a disintegrating legal framework, a lack of institutional capacity, low technical expertise and law enforcement organisations. The Juvenile Justice (Care and protection of children) Act of 2015, and the Information Technology Act of 2000 address cybercrime, though there is a lack of harmonisation when it comes to juvenile cyber criminals. Juvenile Justice Board lacks the necessary technical skills in the digital age to adjudge juvenile behaviour which changes in tandem with psychological maturation. The Indian rules governing juvenile cybercrime are, likewise, not entirely consistent with international child rights. Preventive frameworks, as well as rehabilitative measures, including cybercrime awareness campaigns have yet to be implemented. This study examines the discrepancies and methods that may be adopted to effectively response to adolescent cybercrime in India.

Keywords: Digital deviance, technology, juvenile justice, rehabilitative measures, cybercrime

CONTENTS

S. No.	Description	Page No.
	Cover Page	i
	Declaration by Scholar	ii
	Certificate by Supervisor	iii
	Abstract	iv
	Table of Contents	v
1.	Introduction	1-5
2.	Description of Broad Area	5
3.	Statement of the Problem	5- 6
4.	Literature Review	6-10
5.	Research Gap	10
6.	Research Objectives	10
7.	Research Questions	11
8.	Hypothesis	11
9.	Research Methodology	11
10.	Tentative Chapterization	12
11.	References	13-14

1. INTRODUCTION

The fast spread of digital technology has resulted in revolutionary development of communications, socialization, and economic engagement in the 21st century[1]. With the aspect of internet becoming a fundamental aspect, the spread of digital literacy has also become a mandate. The Indian legal acumen is also been pushed for digitization by various governmental schemes as exposure of a considerable portion of population in online world will also lead to a number of wrong doings, intentionally or unintentionally. The easy digital access is opening gates for both, progress and upliftment in various fields and digital threats due to lack of apt knowledge for operating the internet. This situation is posing more threat to a specific segment i.e. digital wrongs among minors. This new cyber reality check which is leading to increase in digital wrongdoing among minors, can be termed as digital deviance[2]. With reference to this study, digital deviance can be referred as the behavior violating legal and ethical norms and executed through digital means by individuals under the age of 18years[3]. Common digital deviance acts which can be observed among public at large are - cyberbullying, identity theft, hacking online in personation, extortion, difficult piracy, the distribution of obscene content, stalking and online financial fraud, though the list of cybercrime offences does not end here. The pace of growth of these digital deviance acts among adolescents not only poses a legal problem but also involves psychological and ethical problems which necessitates an urgent investigation of the effectiveness of existing law and programs, aiming at preventing, educating and rehabilitating such behavior[4].

The rapid increase in participation of minors in cybercrime activities is becoming a challenge for the legal and judicial system in delivering situation apt justice. The identification, investigation and prosecution of such acts become quite difficult due to anonymity of digital technologies, ranging impact and reach of the wrong doers and aggrieved.[5].The legal approach of "1 size fits all" cannot be universally applicable on these kinds of cases due to huge variation in the psychological development, purpose, and situational awareness of minors engaged in digital deviance. The main difficulty is to balance two opposing imperatives, necessity to prevent criminal behaviour and establish responsibility on the one hand, the duty to respect the

[1] Ved Kumari, *The Juvenile Justice System in India: From Welfare to Rights* (Oxford Univ. Press 2009).
[2] Pavan Duggal, *Cyberlaw: The Indian Perspective* (6th ed. Universal Law Publishing 2022).
[3] Asha Bajpai, Juvenile Justice in India: A Rights-Based Perspective, 42(4) Indian J. Criminol. 127 (2014).
[4] Shruti Bedi, Cyber Crimes and Juvenile Justice in India, 7 NLUD J. Legal Stud. 58 (2021).
[5] Aparna Chandra, Rights of the Accused Juvenile in the Indian Legal Framework, 12 NUJS L. Rev. 112 (2019).

rehabilitative and reformative aims of juvenile justice on the other[6].

India's legal response to juvenile cybercrime is largely based on to statutory instruments; the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act 2015[7] (hereinafter JJ Act) and the Information Technology Act, 2000[8] (hereinafter IT Act). The JJ Act provides for a legislative framework to deal with children in conflict with the law and children in need of care and protection with an emphasis on rehabilitation, reintegration and the child's best interest. The IT Act deals with the regulation of digital activity and prosecution of cybercrimes. It is important to mention that the IT Act is not specifically dealing with Juveniles. This lack of apt measures leads to frequently uneven response to adolescent internet misbehavior. The absence of consistent procedural rules for age-appropriate punishments and specialized procedures in these statutes indicates substantial legal and institutional deficiencies[9].

The statistics from the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) and numerous state level reports show an alarming increase in the involvement of youth in cybercrimes[10]. The developing socio psychological profile of adolescents is in a developing stage. The peer pressure and innocent experimentation resulting in significant violation of law and long-term consequences for the victim can be a resultant of digital deviance. The adolescents may find themselves technologically advanced but many a times they are emotionally immature leading to engagement in illicit as without complete understanding of legal and moral consequences. This distinction between culpability and guilt necessitates the rethinking of legal solutions.

Another important aspect of this topic is the International legal setting. India is a part to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. UNCRC, which requires state parties to handle children accused of violating criminal law in a way that respects their dignity and value, supporting the concepts of rehabilitation and reforms. The UNCRC emphasizes the significance of preventative education, child sensitive education, and rehabilitation measures. However, India's current approach to adolescent cybercrime is not completely aligned with the international standards. In particular, there is lack in digital literacy efforts, cyber ethics education. The juvenile diversion programs tend to contradict the objective of long-term

[6] Divya Singh, Children as Perpetrators of Cybercrime: A Legal Analysis, 3 Int'l J. Law & Mgmt. Stud. 45 (2018).
[7] Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, No. 2 of 2016, INDIA CODE (2016).
[8] Information Technology Act, No. 21 of 2000, INDIA CODE (2000).
[9] Dr. S.R. Myneni, *Cyber Law & Information Technology* (Allahabad Law Agency 2020).
[10] National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), Ministry of Home Affairs, *Crime in India – 2022* (2023), https://ncrb.gov.in.

behavioural change.[11]

Furthermore, the countries including the United States, the United Kingdom, Australia and Singapore have created more sophisticated approaches for combating adolescent cybercrime. A comparative analysis can be helpful in framing new rules which are in consonance with UNCRC. Specific measures can be taken by inclusion of child specific clauses in the legislations related to technology, initiation of digital literacy programmes in educational institutions, formation of cyber cell special division in Juvenile Courts. A special division of cyber cell can be created in the Juvenile Courts; digital literacy programmes can be initiated in educational institutions. A number of states of United States, proceed in the line of action through restorative justice while dealing with first time Juvenile Offenders. They put specific emphasis on mediation and treatment in jail. The system of United Kingdom can also be observed wherein the Youth Justice board has set up digital conduct standards and training module for social workers, judges and educators. Insights from these systems can be for Indian legal system for advancing its own judicial system with respect to cybercrime.[12]

Doctrinal, Empirical approach will be considered for working on the research along with a comparative legal analysis. The collection of qualitative data on the processing of juvenile cybercrimes will be done through visits in juvenile homes, police stations, legal aid clinics and educational institutions. Interaction and interviews with stakeholders, including juvenile justice board members, child psychologist, school counsellors, law enforcement, personal and parents, will also be helpful in understanding the situation at the ground level. The patterns, common variables and institutional reactions will be done through case studies of real adolescent cybercrime cases.[13]

The assessment of the study will be contributing to the continuing debate discussing the suitability of India's juvenile system in the digital era[14]. The study will also be focusing on the shortcomings affecting effective prevention, prosecution, and rehabilitation of juveniles in cyber offences. This study will also do an assessment of the well existing systems that are achieving the dual goals of Justice and child safety. Based on the analysis, the study proposes to showcase a thorough legal and policy reform framework integrating the child rights, restorative justice, and digital accountability. The social and

[11]UNICEF India, *Cyberbullying: A Threat to Adolescent Safety* (2021), https://www.unicef.org/india.
[12] Id.
[13] Dr. S.R. Myneni, *Cyber Law & Information Technology* (Allahabad Law Agency 2020).
[14] Clare McGlynn, *Cyberflashing and the Law* (2021) 11 Crim. L. Rev. 871 (UK context).

developmental consequences of digital deviance are not merely limited to the actions of individual juvenile offenders, in fact they are addressing the bigger systemic concerns of Education, Parenting, Government, and Socio-economic inequities. The adolescents involved in cybercrime are from diverse backgrounds, rural or urban, privileged or underprivileged, having one common thread i.e. lack of formal digital education and ethical advice. This emphasises the right necessity for incorporating cyber awareness and digital responsibility into school. Curricular at all levels with specific focus on teenage mental health, common behavioural development, and online conduct.[15]

The anonymity and apparent attachment of the Internet world sometimes obscure the visibility of harm resulting to a type of moral disengagement among adolescents. Offenders may not see the effects of their act on victims, resulting in a decreased feeling of culpability[16]**.** Furthermore, the rapid rate of technology progress frequently outpaces the growth of legal and educational frameworks. The Internet and related technologies are rapidly evolving every day, but the legal system hampered by procedural bureaucratic, and normative stagnation, struggles to keep up. This latency generates exploitable grey regions in which digital transcription among minors can festers unchecked or untreated. [17]

The pandemic year's (2020 to 2022) exacerbated these issues[18]. With the clothing of the schools and the transition to online learning. Children and adolescents spent more time online often without supervision. Several studies were carried out during this period in which it was found that there was more cyber billing, exposure to the wrong information, online gambling and recruitment into digital schemes of minors. This occurred all over the world and was a great acceleration of digital dependence but did not sufficiently prepare the legal educational or family in situations for dealing with the problems that were caused[19].

The pandemic brought out the danger and inadequacies in our ability to deal with adolescent interactions with digital technologies. Despite these types of concerns, there is a lack of comprehensive studies on disability among Indian youthful stop later on. NCRB data gives some general trends but that is usually not precise enough to understand the reasons. Recurrent patterns of angiographical/ socioeconomic differences. Furthermore, very little academic scholars have ever contemplated or examined the concept of "Digital deviance" as a discrete theoretical construct in the entire categories of cybercrime and juvenile delinquency. This

[15] Supreme Court Committee on Juvenile Justice, *Model Guidelines for Juvenile Justice Boards* (2017).
[16] Paranjape N.V., *Criminology and Penology* (17th ed. Central Law Publications 2021).
[17] Id.
[18] National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), Ministry of Home Affairs, *Crime in India – 2022* (2023), https://ncrb.gov.in.
[19] Dr. S.R. Myneni, *Cyber Law & Information Technology* (Allahabad Law Agency 2020).

conceptual hole is a barrier to the course of some legal and policy reforms.[20]

2. DESCRIPTION OF BROAD AREA

This thesis aims to fill out that whole by putting digital demands into a structure, theoretical, legal, empirical context. The study recommends that digital evidence be considered as a socio legal phenomenon that emerges as the intersection of between developmental psychology, criminology, law and technology. This technique helps to facilitate a holistic study and wherein adolescent cyber misdeeds will be kept into a larger Sociocultural framework while critically interacting with conventional legal paradigm.[21].

It is important to understand that punitive justice paradigms particularly those based on criminal jurisprudence, are often ineffective in dealing with adolescent cyber criminals.[22] These approaches generally ignore the development skills of children, the right to be heard, educated and reintegrated in society. A modification to a rehabilitative framework is thus not only compatible with international standards on human rights, but also more inclined to lead to positive longer term consequences.[23] The present research attempts to bridge the gap between the legal formalism and technological aspects and further make a valuable contribution to the discourse of juvenile justice in India in view of the rampant usage of the cyberspace. It would be a focus on delivering an appropriate strategy of regulating digital deviance among the juveniles under the lens of the harmonization rule and rights of the child in toto.[24].

3. STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Digital deviance is becoming one of the major concerns in current juvenile system due to easy internet access and vast technological developments. The major factors responsible are fragmented legal frameworks, insufficient institutional capacities, limited technical expertise. These factors contribute substantially in ineffective prevention and rehabilitation.

1. The two laws that provide the basis for a successful legislative response for juvenile cybercrime are the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act of 2015 and the Information Technology Act of 2000. The JJ Act is more of a law dealing with

[20] Shruti Bedi, Cyber Crimes and Juvenile Justice in India, 7 NLUD J. Legal Stud. 58 (2021).
[21] Id.
[22] Clare McGlynn, *Cyberflashing and the Law* (2021) 11 Crim. L. Rev. 871
[23] Id.
[24] Ayelet Sela, Restorative Justice for Juvenile Cyber Offenders: Global Trends, 18 Yale J.L. & Tech. 322 (2017).

children's welfare, and the rehabilitation of children, the IT Act caters comprehensively to the criminalization of cybercrimes. The deficiency in Juvenile Justice Act is that it does not have specific measures for cybercrime. The IT Act provides for no differentiation between adolescents and adults in regards to procedure and punishment. This is leading to ambiguities which results in the remote and ineffectual legal outcomes.

2. The technological expertise required to handle cyber crime evidences such as Digital forensics is presenting a difficulty for the investigation and prosecution of cyber crimes which include lack on behalf of Juvenile Justice Board and law enforcement agencies. Moreover, the systems are often lacking in procedural protections and a comfortable environment for the child sensitive systems, which should be a mandate for digital offences. An important role is also played by the lack of specialised training, the lack of designated cyber teens and lack of adequate infrastructure, poor infrastructure makes these shortcomings even worse.

3. Accountability of juvenile offenders is also dependent on the psychological developments and the knowledge of consequences of their acts. The current legal system is failing to provide a proper account for these developmental variables which results in disproportionate punishment or poor rehabilitation of the juvenile offenders.

4. The perspectives of the India's juvenile system in terms of its preventive and rehabilitative measures are not in full consonance with the principles contained in United Nations Convention of the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). Digital literacy and cyber ethnic education is a work in progress which is yet to be integrated with MH and counselling services, limiting their efficacy.

This study focuses on the critical examination of the interconnected issues in the field of legal, procedural and institutional frameworks in Indian Legislation. Identification of the gaps will be helpful in framing a framework which is more coherent, right based, technologically equipped and capable of successfully dealing with cybercrimes committed by the juveniles.

4. LITERATURE REVIEW

Digital deviance among juveniles is a new area of academic study requiring combining cyber

law, juvenile justice, criminal logic, child psychology and information technology policy. The subject demands multidisciplinary literature assessment including basic ideas, doctrinal legal documents, empirical investigations, international norms. This literature will be helpful in evaluation of intellectual environment around the issue and in identifying gaps requiring more exploration in the proposed study.

Vedkumari's work, The Juvenile Justice System in India: from Welfare to Right[25] demonstrates traditional juvenile justice scholarship in India in the form of documentation of the historical and normative transition of Indian juvenile justice paradigm which has made a shift from welfare base to right based model. Kumari's, work put an emphasis on providing a theoretical framework focusing on the best interest of the child by proposing proper rehabilitation, reintegration of juveniles involved in cybercrime. Criminal logical text like Parenjpey's, Criminal Knowledge and Phenology, and Sethnas Society[26] and the Criminal also make and addition to the psychosocial dimension for understanding the juvenile behavior. It provides insights as to how peer pressure, broken family environments, and identity crisis type affects adolescents to deviance, digital or otherwise.

Pawan Duggal and S. R. Myneni also contributes to the field of cyber law. Duggal's Cyber Law; The Indian Perspective [27] and Myneni's Cyber Law and information technology[28]. Analyse the Information Technology Act 2000, focusing on significant losses including Section 66 A, 66C and 67B that has ramifications against cyber bullying, Identity theft and child pornography However, both Writers acknowledge a fundamental deficiency in the IT Act; the lack of measure conditioned expressly for juvenile offenders or procedural protection that apply to them. This deficiency highlights the need to look at JJ Act and IP Act not in isolation but in tandem.

In terms of legal frameworks, the Juvenile Justice, (Care and Protection of Children) Act of 2015[29]. Has prompted several scholarly studies.. Asha Bajpai's[30] work focuses on the importance of making the juvenile law in India conform to the United Nations Convention on

[25] Ved Kumari, *The Juvenile Justice System in India: From Welfare to Rights* (Oxford Univ. Press 2010).
[26] N.V. Paranjape, *Criminology and Penology* (18th ed. Central Law Publications 2022).
[27] Pavan Duggal, *Cyberlaw: The Indian Perspective* (2d ed. Saakshar Law Publications 2011).
[28] S.R. Myneni, *Cyber Law and Information Technology* (Allahabad Law Agency 2013).
[29] Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, No. 2 of 2016, INDIA CODE (2016).
[30] Asha Bajpai, *Child Rights in India: Law, Policy, and Practice* (Oxford Univ. Press 2018).

the Right of Child, (UNCRC). Aparna Chandra who laments about procedural rigidity and institutional limitations of juvenile. Legal boards in dealing with technological complicated situations supports our campaign for a child friendly legal system. The lack of specific training infrastructure. And child friendly processes in criminal adjudication digitally is a persistent problem.

On the international level, UNCRC, its general Comments and the Beijing and Riyadh guidelines serve as a normative foundation for juvenile justice concepts. General Comment 10[31] requires the children in confrontation with the law be dealt in ways that respect their rights and capacities. These international publications lays focus on the need of education, integration and implementation of restorative rather than punitive justice procedures[32]. This modus operandi is required in the development of remedies to tackle cyber misbehavior resulting in significant harm but lacking criminal intent.

Comparative legal scholarship provides further depth in youth crime and justice. Barry Goldson[33] criticizes the fugitive shift in global juvenile justice system and proposes for solution that prioritize social reintegration and community-based rehabilitation. Islets sellers' examination of restorative justice procedures for adolescent cyber offenders. The effectiveness of dialog based. Approaches in the United States and portions of Europe. Similarly, the Australian Institute of Criminology advocates early intervention and digital literacy as methods for prevention. These studies serve as a repository of best practices that India can adopt.

Adolescent psychology gives important insights into behavioral factors driving cyber misbehavior, according to Elizabeth S.. Scott and Lawrence Steinberg[34]., teenagers have a lower capability for impulse control and risk assessment, implying that their responsibility in digital crimes should be assessed differently than that of adults. Sonia Livingston and Helsper[35] investigate how social environment variable influence children's Internet, activity, demonstrating that anonymity and detachment in online context. Frequently fosters moral

[31] U.N. Comm. on the Rts. of the Child, General Comment No. 10, Children's Rights in Juvenile Justice, U.N. Doc. CRC/C/GC/10 (Apr. 25, 2007).
[32] Convention on the Rights of the Child, Nov. 20, 1989, 1577 U.N.T.S. 3.
[33] Barry Goldson, *Youth Crime and Justice* (SAGE Publications 2006).
[34] Elizabeth S. Scott & Laurence Steinberg, Adolescent Development and the Regulation of Youth Crime, 18 *Future of Children* 15 (2008).
[35] Sonia Livingstone & Ellen Helsper, Balancing Opportunities and Risks in Teenagers' Use of the Internet: The Role of Online Skills and Internet Self-Efficacy, 10 *New Media & Soc'y* 309 (2007).

disengagement. Indian scholars such as Shruti Bedi and Divya Singh have expanded on these concerts, pointing to the necessity for alternative legal standards for prosecuting adolescence under cyber laws.

The seriousness of the situation can be best judged, along with the statistical evidence. As per the records of the National Crime Records Bureau going back to 2018, the rate of adolescent cybercrime has been on a booming spree, some of the areas of concern are hacking, online impersonation and harassment. The report of UNICEF 2017 State of the World's Children Report report and report 2021 Cyber Bullying; a threat to an adolescent safety is psychology of Digital threats. It also calls for a child-centric approach to making child-centric cyber policy frameworks.

Childline India Foundation and the Internet and Mobile Association of India, do micro level research to provide an insight into the mechanism and response of the legal and institutional institutions to juvenile cyber deviance. These indicate towards the scarcity of child friendly reporting systems, absence of skilled counsellors and forensic knowledge. Various factors have also been brought to the limelight. They also emphasize the need for appropriate knowledge amongst the parents and educators, the need to address the digital gap and address unreported and undetected behavior.

Legal precedents such as Shilpa Mittal Vs State of NCT of Delhi, Salil Bali Vs Union of India and Sampurna.[36] Behrua vs Union of India guide as to how to deal with minors accused of committing serious felonies. These examples are explanation of heinous offences and exculpation of discretion by Juvenile Justice Board which still has not deal with cybercrime specifically. They also struggle for procedural protections, and are individualized. Evaluations - which justify the need of the child sensitive education.

The Indian legal academia is not providing a reasonable explanation of digital deviance though is plethora published material. Empirical research would be useful in to know the ground situation and processing of this category of cases. The rule on the interpretation of Harmonization has to be applied in the intersecting cases of juvenile justice and cyber laws has to be used in harmonization both in legislation and in practice. The combination and use of

[36] *Salil Bali v. Union of India*, (2013) 7 SCC 705 (India).

interdisciplinary techniques which include psychology., education, criminology and digital forensics will be helpful to provide appropriate relief.

It would be appropriate to mention that present through a rich but fragmented tapestry of concepts, policies, and practices to juvenile digital deviance. Although normative and procedural is given by fundamental techs, yet specific research is required to address nexus of technology , adolescence and justice. These reports are meant to cover the lacunae in the legislative and administrative processes in India with the help of foreign best practices. Also, it aims in providing a suggestive reformed rights-based framework of combating adolescent cybercrime in the digital age.

5. RESEARCH GAP

The Current juvenile justice laws are not able to fully combat with the technological realities. The current system is facing challenges and lacking on the ground of being

1. Technologically informed and equipped
2. Child rights- compliant i.e psychological and emotional flaws
3. Lack of balancing between accountability and rehabilitation
4. Poor adaptation to cross-border and evidentiary complexities in cyberspace

6. RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

- To analyse the existing legal framework governing juvenile justice in the context of the technology -mediated offenses.
- To examine relevant international standards and their incorporation into domestic law.
- To study enforcement challenges in investigating and prosecuting juvenile cyber – offenses.
- To evaluate policy responses and preventive strategies for digital deviance among juveniles.
- To propose reforms for a more effective, child centric and technologically relevant juvenile justice system.

7. RESEARCH QUESTIONS:

- How can the definition and contextualization of digital device among Indian juveniles and identifying of new patterns and trends happen in cybercrime in India?
- What are the significant legal, procedural and institutional deficiencies in the league regulation, education and rehabilitation of juveniles involved in digital crimes, as indicated by case laws and empirical data?
- How well does the present legal framework manage Juvenile cyber offenses?
- How does India's juvenile system? Handle cases of cybercrime in India with international child rights standards?

8. HYPOTHESIS

The existing legislative framework in India, which increases Juvenile Justice, (Care and Protection of Children) Act. 2015 and the Information Technology Act. 2000 lacks, the required integration and coordination procedures to effectively address cyber-crimes perpetrated by juveniles.

9. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This study's methodology combines doctrinal and empirical research methodologies to give. A complete examination of juvenile, dignitary, divine and the corresponding legal frameworks. To understand the current legal environment, doctrinal study will include a thorough review of pertinent legislation, cases and international legal instruments. Qualitative methodologies such as interviews with key stakeholders' case studies of juvenile cybercrime, occurrences, and consultations will be a part of Empirical research. These all methods will be explored from the juvenile justice system, law enforcement, and child rights groups. Best practices of the United States will also be utilized for a comparative legal analysis to evolve the justified methods for adolescent cyber transgressions. The study will also involve a concrete analysis of cybercrime reports from our policy papers, and court decisions to identify trends, caps, and this practices applicable to the Indian context.

10. TENTATIVE CHAPTERIZATION

Chapter 1: Introduction

Chapter 2: Technology and Juvenile Deviance (Nature, causes and patterns of digital offenses by juveniles)

Chapter 3: International Legal Framework governing juveniles and cyber offenses

Chapter 4: Legal Framework in India governing juveniles and cyber offenses

Chapter 5: Judicial Response for Cyber Offenses by and against juveniles

Chapter 6: Conclusion and Suggestions

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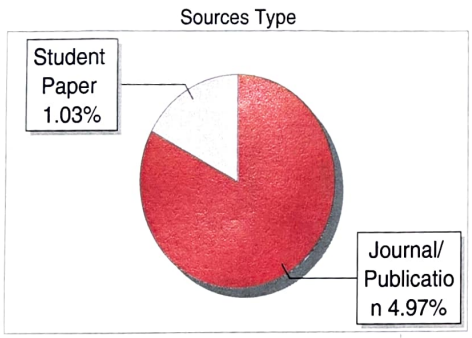

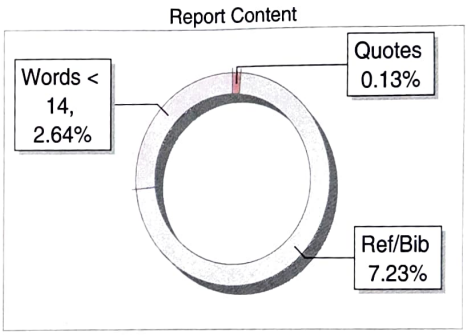

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JUVENILE JUSTICE IN THE AGE OF TECHNOLOGY:

AN ANALYSIS OF LEGAL AND POLICY FRAMEWORKS

SHORT SYNOPSIS

by

Kajul Sharma

MRULWDN012K230047

Under the supervision of

Prof. (Dr.) Asha Verma

Year_____

ABSTRACT

The growth of technology has created a difficulty in the shape of digital misbehaviour among juveniles. Minors are committing cybercrime such as cyber bullying, hacking, online fraud and sextortion at an alarming rate. The existing judicial system is failing to effectively address these extraordinary delicacies. The problem stems from a disintegrating legal framework, a lack of institutional capacity, low technical expertise and law enforcement organisations. The Juvenile Justice (Care and protection of children) Act of 2015, and the Information Technology Act of 2000 address cybercrime, though there is a lack of harmonisation when it comes to juvenile cyber criminals. Juvenile Justice Board lacks the necessary technical skills in the digital age to adjudge juvenile behaviour which changes in tandem with psychological maturation. The Indian rules governing juvenile cybercrime are, likewise, not entirely consistent with

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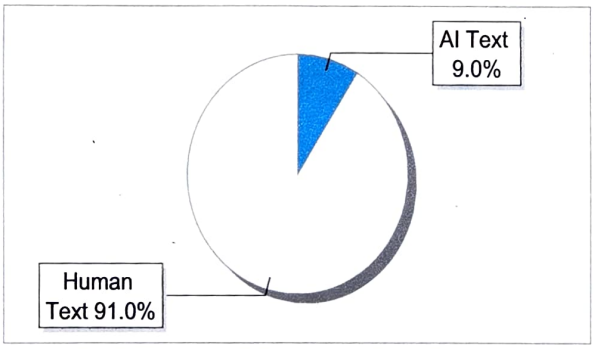

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